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Amendments to the Claims:

GROUP 3600

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Amended) A method for centralizing a supply chain management framework, comprising:

a) a supply chain management computer of an independent supply chain manager registering a plurality of independent distributors of a supply chain utilizing a network;

b) receiving from a plurality of independent outlets~~assigning~~ distribution management rights for the independent~~to~~ a supply chain manager;

c) receiving data from a plurality of the independent outlets of the supply chain utilizing a network, the data comprising an amount ~~relating to the sale of~~ products sold by the independent outlets; and

d) the supply chain management computer determining different amounts of the products to distribute to the different independent outlets and the independent supply chain manager selecting distributors from the plurality of distributors to distribute the different amounts of the products to the independent outlets~~managing the use of the data during the distribution of products to the outlets by the distributors, wherein the managing is handled by the supply chain manager.~~

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the assignment is capable of being terminated based on gross negligence on the part of the supply chain manager.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the managing includes determining a timing of distribution of the products to be distributed to the outlets.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Amended) A system for centralizing a supply chain management framework, comprising:

electronic storage;

a set of processors that use the electronic storage and include among them the following logic elements

a) logic for a supply chain management computer of an independent supply chain manager registering a plurality of independent distributors of a supply chain utilizing a network;

b) logic for receiving from a plurality of independent outlets ~~assigning~~ distribution management rights for the independent ~~to a~~ supply chain manager;

c) logic for receiving data from a plurality of the independent outlets of the supply chain utilizing a network, the data comprising an amount ~~relating to the sale of~~ products sold by the independent outlets; and

d) logic for the supply chain management computer determining different amounts of the products to distribute to the different independent outlets and the independent supply chain manager selecting distributors from the plurality of distributors to distribute the different amounts of the products to the independent outlets ~~managing the use of the data during the distribution of products to the outlets by the distributors, wherein the managing is handled by the supply chain manager.~~

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the assignment is capable of being terminated based on gross negligence on the part of the supply chain manager.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the managing includes determining a timing of distribution of the products to be distributed to the outlets.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Amended) A computer program product for centralizing a supply chain management framework, comprising:

a set of computer usable media having computer readable program code embodied among them to be executed by a computer, the computer readable program code comprising

a) computer code for a supply chain management computer of an independent supply chain manager registering a plurality of independent distributors of a supply chain utilizing a network;

b) computer code for receiving from a plurality of independent outlets ~~assigning~~ distribution management rights for the independent ~~to a supply chain manager~~;

c) computer code for receiving data from a plurality of the independent outlets of the supply chain utilizing a network, the data comprising an amount relating to the sale of products sold by the independent outlets; and

d) computer code for the supply chain management computer determining different amounts of the products to distribute to the different independent outlets and the independent supply chain manager selecting distributors from the plurality of distributors to distribute the different amounts of the products to the independent outlets ~~managing the use of the data during the distribution of products to the outlets by the distributors, wherein the managing is handled by the supply chain manager.~~

14. (Original) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the assignment is capable of being terminated based on gross negligence on the part of the supply chain manager.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the managing includes determining a timing of distribution of the products to be distributed to the outlets.

18. (Canceled)